

## Contributions.

### TEMPERANCE.

DAVID BAILEY.

Many years ago, when the coal regions of Pennsylvania and Eastern Ohio were just beginning to be developed, the shafts which are perpendicular openings through the earth to the veins below for the purposes of ventilation and light, were generally left unprotected and many were the accidents resulting from this carelessness.

Of course the children were warned of these places, but there seemed to be a fascination about them which was not to be resisted by the average child, and the consequence was that many maimed and mangled bodies were carried out of the veins. Parents who lost a precious little one would grieve sincerely over their loss, but their neighbors were more likely to discuss the perversity of children which led them to resort to these dangerous localities.

My convictions on this subject are so strong that I am constrained to speak this parable, and when you condemn the carelessness of these poor miners, then in the language of the prophet Nathan I will say, "Thou art the man," for I say to you that though I am neither a prophet nor the son of a prophet, I verily believe that the parents of this country are digging pits so deep that there is little hope but that their sons will be lost therein. In other words, I claim that the taste for stimulants and narcotics is inherited from the parents and nothing but the grace of God and a strong will will save the son from a drunkard's career and a drunkard's grave at last.

I realize that I am in advance of the sentiment of the day and generation when I make such a statement, but I tell you, my friends, that there is need of an advance in methods of work in the temperance cause, we accomplish too little.

I wish to say here that for more than thirty years I have not hesitated to advocate the cause of temperance at every opportunity by practice as well as by precept, and in admitting that I have, in some instances, come short of my theory, is only acknowledging that I am human. On this account I have protested against and discarded the use of such narcotics as coffee, tea and tobacco, and such appetizers (so called) as pepper and mustard as well as the stimulants ale, beer, wine and whiskey. I know that mothers do not realize what they are doing, when they saturate their system with strong tea or coffee nor can I scarcely hope that they will heed the warning here given, but that does not relieve me from my duty.

The virtue of temperance is not something to be put on as a garment, but is developed from within, on this account it is largely a matter of education, but he who enters the race with a perverted appetite, acquired at his mother's breast is handicapped to such a degree as to render his case almost hopeless. Nevertheless, where there is life, there is hope, so I deem it a privilege to be permitted to address you on this occasion. I fear that Christians are, as a rule, too careless on this question, like the disciple on the night of Jesus' betrayal, they follow their Master "afar off," so far, that they are likely to lose sight of him entirely. We speak of the missions, home and foreign, and we work for them and it is well, but what is the church doing for temperance? It is of more importance than any other mission, for even the heathen have a chance of salvation but "no drunkard shall enter the kingdom of heaven."

As to the method of work, I have always thought that it was poor policy to put in all our force in fighting the saloon. It will die of its own accord when the demand for them ceases. If it were possible to cut off the supply of intoxicants we might stop the manufacture of drunkards; but as Christ came to the earth to save sinners, even the vilest, it seems to me that his blood should be the all-powerful antidote to raise up these drink poisoned sinners and plant their feet on solid gospel ground. But how shall it be done? How do you reach any sinner? One way would be to take his case before the Lord in prayer.

In praying for anything it is well to have a definite object of prayer and to devote the whole heart and soul to that object. In speaking of the methods of work in a very successful revival which he had conducted, a young minister said that his church selected some particular individual and at stated times during the day all were to pray privately for the conversion of that individual; this would be continued till the prayers were answered. This is concentration of effort, and if there be any virtue in prayer—and what Christian doubts it,—there would certainly be more in earnest united effort.

As before stated, I have little faith in legislation. Little can be accomplished in that way until public sentiment is educated up to the point of enforcing the law, and when this is accomplished, public sentiment will take care of the matter without legislation. Do the laws against murder prevent killing? To me it seems that the law is on the criminal's side rather than otherwise. How often would public sentiment make way with murderers if the law did not protect them. So it should

be in the temperance cause. These may seem like strange sentiments for a prohibitionist but I would say that I can see no other opening now for united temperance work, and for the sake of the educational benefits to be derived from the advocacy of prohibition, I was willing to suffer and die—politically—and not that I expected to accomplish anything further.

Let us take this matter to the Lord and work and pray earnestly in his vineyard with this end in view, but let me warn you not to expect too much. God is all-powerful, but we cannot comprehend his purposes. The gospel must be preached to all the world before Christ comes again, but we have no promise that the world will be converted, on the contrary the last days are to be the worst.

Christian, keep your light burning brightly, nothing does the cause so much harm as an uncertain light in a Christian's hands, let it shine, and flash it into the world's darkest corners.

### MAKING USE OF OPPORTUNITIES.

CHAS. HESSE.

A man driving along one day overtook a stranger who was walking along the road; he invited him to ride. As he approached him he said to himself; I wonder what the man is thinking about, and what subject of conversation he will introduce. It will no doubt be one of three things—the outcome of the coming election, the weather or the crops. But to his surprise it was neither. His mind was on a greater throne. His first words after the usual salutation, were, How is salvation down in your country? The question surprised the gentleman not a little by its directness, but it showed where the others heart and hopes were, and led to a long and profitable conversation of heavenly things. How much might be accomplished by each of us if our hearts were warm and glowing with love to Christ. How often do we misuse as it were the opportunity that comes to us by indulging in idle talk, when we ought to have our minds on the alert to improve every opportunity that God sets before us to talk for Jesus Christ. What the world needs is more Christian conversation and less gossip. We are continually discussing the question, How to reach the unconverted. We spend large sums of money for preaching; we employ evangelists and hold special meetings; yet greater than these all is Christian conversation, a dozen fully consecrated men and women who would go out into the community and talk for Jesus, could do more for it than the best evangelist in the land. There is no community that cannot be aroused to an